

ILLEGIB

Campaign '88**Bush silent
on CIA link
to Noriega**By Nolan Walters
Inquirer Washington Bureau

GOP front-runner George Bush yesterday shrugged off suggestions by Sen. Bob Dole that he is tainted by the CIA's dealings with Panamanian leader Manuel Antonio Noriega.

The Dole campaign continued to suggest that the vice president should have known of Noriega's alleged drug activities.

"You want a president with stability," Bush said during a campaign stop at Rock Hill, S.C. "Sometimes when you're a candidate, you can make flamboyant statements," he added, not mentioning anybody by name.

Though Dole backed away from any direct accusation of Bush, he and his staff continued to ask how Dole, as a senator from Kansas in 1978, had heard about Noriega's possible drug-ring ties while Bush, as CIA director in 1976-1977, apparently had not.

Bush has refused to discuss what he may have known as CIA director, saying it would violate his oath to protect classified information.

Kemp: Repeal canal treaty

Meanwhile, another Republican presidential candidate, Rep. Jack F. Kemp of New York, pledged to work toward the repeal on his first day as president of the U.S.-Panama treaty that would give control of the canal to Panama by the year 2000.

"There is no way we can allow that international waterway to fall into the hands of a drug smuggler like Noriega," Kemp said.

On Wednesday, Dole wondered aloud how much Bush had known about Noriega, who was indicted in Florida last month on multiple counts of allowing his country to be used as a transshipment point for drugs bound from Colombia to the United States.

"Was Noriega on the payroll when he [Bush] was CIA director?" Dole said in Louisiana. Asked for detail, he offered none.

Yesterday, Dole appeared to soften his stance — even while calling for the death penalty for drug "overlords and kingpins."

"I asked the question whether or not that happened," Dole said, when asked what he knew about Noriega's reported employment by the CIA.

"I'm suggesting it shouldn't come as any surprise to anybody" that Noriega had ties to drug traffickers, Dole said at a news conference in Washington, where he was endorsed by former United Nations Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick.

Brock cites sources

William E. Brock 3d, Dole's campaign chairman, said the campaign did not have specific information that Bush knew about Noriega's alleged involvement in drug-running. "We do have some very knowledgeable sources saying that Noriega was on the payroll of the CIA during Bush's tenure," Brock said.

A senior Bush aide, who asked not to be identified, later also said that Noriega had worked for the CIA.

Among the Democratic candidates, yesterday was a day for renewed bickering over trade policy and for picking up new endorsements.

To the cheers of 250 workers at a hard-hit General Motors plant in his native St. Louis, Rep. Richard A. Gephardt again called for a tougher trade policy that would allow a president to retaliate against countries that engage in unfair trade practices.

"When I'm elected president," he said, "we're going to give you a level playing field to operate on again." He concluded as he does most of his speeches these days, saying, "It's your fight, too."

In Corpus Christi, Texas, Gov. Michael S. Dukakis of Massachusetts warned that Gephardt's proposal would touch off a trade war. "Trade wars are like nuclear wars. They have no victors, only victims," he said.

The New York Times _____
The Washington Times _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The Christian Science Monitor _____
New York Daily News _____
USA Today _____
The Chicago Tribune _____
Phil. Inquirer 8-A
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Dukakis won the endorsement of two Democrats from another Super Tuesday state, Sen. Brock Adams and Gov. Booth Gardner of Washington.

And Tennessee Sen. Albert Gore Jr., the Democrat who has pinned his hopes on doing well on Super Tuesday next week, gained the endorsement of one of the originators of the massive 20-state collection of primaries and caucuses.

Former Virginia Gov. Charles Robb, who is also chairman of the moderate Democratic Leadership Council, said he would support Gore, although he originally had wanted Sen. Sam Nunn (D., Ga.) to run.

Contributing to this article were Bill Arthur, Lee Bandy, Robert S. Boyd, Ken Cooper, Larry Eichel, Angelia Herrin and Owen Ullmann of the Inquirer Washington Bureau.